

April 11, 1973

PRESIDENT: Alright, now Senator Cavanaugh for a point of personal privilege, what is your point Senator?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to address myself to an item that was distributed to the body by Senator Chambers this morning in which he declares that Governor Exon is a liar and a hypocrite, because he signed the Shield Law, is what it says, and because he requested of Senator Savage, that a second bill be introduced pertaining to newsmen privileges, I assume restricting certain portions of the bill that was passed, and which he signed. I don't believe that Senator Chambers adequately explained how he derived at this conclusion on this issue, that Governor Exon is a liar and a hypocrite, apparently it has something to do with his frustration over the failure of this body to eventually pass LB 12, and the fact that the Governor returned that bill to this body several times for corrections. Although, I personally was not able to follow from his description in the hand out exactly the connection between that and being a liar and a hypocrite, in this case. As I understand the Governor's position on this Shield Law from the very beginning, he has indicated that he was not happy with the bill and he did not feel that it was restrictive enough or that he felt that it was overly protective of the press. Now I don't agree with Governor Exon on that particular issue, I am completely satisfied with the bill that was passed by this legislature, and I am quite satisfied that he has signed it, however, I do think that he is entitled in this case to request to this body to again consider what he would consider a more acceptable type of legislation in this area. I don't see anything hypocritical or deceitful about his actions in this particular case because he has indicated from the very beginning, as far as I know, that that was his position on this issue and I think he is certainly entitled to pursue that conviction on his part without being subject to this rather extreme recrimination on the part of Senator Chambers with no apparent logic or basis in fact, and I, it's my feeling that someone in this body should take offense at Senator Chambers' expression in this manner, derogating the Governor of the state of Nebraska, with no substantive, substantive purpose in fact to do that, so that's my expression.

PRESIDENT: What kind, what other business do we have on the desk.

CLERK: Message Mr. President from the Governor -

PRESIDENT: Alright, Senator Chambers, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I feel that I'm not out of order, when on a point of personal privilege, remarks are directed exactly at me. So if I can't rise to respond to his remarks on the basis of his remarks, I rise for a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT: State your point Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: To respond to the comments of Senator Cavanaugh, I don't think the Governor needs any protection or defense from Senator Cavanaugh, and Senator Cavanaugh a hypocrite, the word comes from an old Greek word. When they had actors and actresses, they wore masks, and the masks wearer was known as a hypocrite, or one who conceals his true identity behind a mask. A liar is one who deliberately states a false hood or misrepresents a position. Now I thought that from the way that the hand out was presented, you would understand that there were two situations being considered here. The way to